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Subject: FW: article: President Obama OKs individual aid for West
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President Obama OKs individual aid for West - WacoTrib.com: Fire

President Obama OKs individual aid for West

By CINDY V. CULP cculp@wacotrib.com | **Posted: Wednesday, May 1, 2013 4:10 pm**

President Barack Obama on Wednesday expanded the emergency declaration made in the wake of the West fertilizer plant explosion, a move which will allow individual families to apply for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Individuals and families may be eligible for grants that will help with the cost of temporary housing and home repairs. They may also be able to get help with medical, dental and funeral expenses, according to a news release from FEMA.

In addition, people affected by the blast may be able to get assistance in replacing personal property, transportation and other items, the agency said.

People must register with FEMA during the next 60 days in order to receive such assistance, said Julie Bradford, a FEMA spokeswoman who is part of a team working in West.

People can register online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by a web-enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov. People can also register by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY). People who use 711-relay or video-relay services can call 1-800-621-3362.

West city officials previously expressed doubt that the federal government would approve aid for individual families. When Mayor Pro Tem Steve Vanek learned of

Obama's action Wednesday, he called it great news and said it will help people in the town recover and rebuild.

"I don't know everybody's personal state," Vanek said. "But I do know people are hurting. It's definitely going to help."